

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-21.

Add new claims 22-29 as-filed in the Parent Application
09/738,444 on April 19, 2002 in Applicants Response A.

22. (new) A nucleic acid molecule having at least one recognition site and an associated nicking site for a site specific single strand nicking endonuclease, the nucleic acid further comprising a target single strand region in double-stranded DNA.

23. (new) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 22, having a first and a second single strand nicking site wherein the first nicking site is orientated in tandem with respect to the second nicking site.

24. (new) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 22, having a first and optionally a second single strand nicking site such that the number of nucleotides between the first and the second nicking site or the first nicking site and a terminus of the nucleic acid molecule determines the length of a single-stranded region in the target single stranded region created.

25. (new) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 22 having a first single-stranded target region, the first region forming a stable

pairing with a second single stranded target region of DNA having a complementary sequence.

26. (new) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 24, wherein the single-stranded region has a length in the range of 12 to 18 nucleotides.

28. (new) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 27, wherein the single-stranded region has a sequence selected from any of SEQ ID NO:16 through SEQ ID NO:32.

29. (new) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 27, wherein the single-stranded region has a sequence selected from any of SEQ ID NO:35 through SEQ ID NO:49.